COCHIN

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

(OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE THIRD BUDGET SESSION OF THE FOURTH COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.)

Vol. V—1112.

COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Friday,

13th August 1937.
29th Karkadagam 1112.

The Council met in the Council Hall, Ernakulam, at Eleven of the Clock with the Hon'ble the President (Sir Shanmukham Chetty, K. C. I. E.) in the Chair.

Messrs. C. P. Lonappan, M. Sivarama Menon, P. Raman Menon, V. K. Aravindaksha Menon and K. Krishna Warriar were absent.

Questions and Answers.

Admissions refused in Primary classes—particulars regarding.

186. **Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar** *(Urakam).*—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether admissions had been refused in primary classes in any of the schools of the State;

(b) if so, the number of such refusals and the reasons for the same?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—(a) and (b). As the year for which the information is required has not been specified, it is not practicable to answer the question.

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Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—I made a mistake in omitting the year. But I wanted to get the information for this year. May I know whether admissions have been refused?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—Admissions have been refused this year on one condition, that is to say, the Government having ordered that no fresh division will be opened for want of funds, when the strength came to 50, the pupils were directed to the nearest school where there is accommodation. Where there was no accommodation divisions have been allowed to be opened and admissions made. There have been a few refusals of a conditional nature saying that there is no accommodation in this particular school but there is accommodation in the neighbouring school and therefore admission cannot be allowed here.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Adur).*—May I know how many divisions were opened in this year?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—I have not got the figures. But I am sure it will be above 30.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Has the Government considered the inconvenience caused to the pupils?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—There will be some inconvenience. But it would not be very serious. The distance will not be very great between two schools in this State.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Are not the Government insisting upon the schools to have the maximum strength of 50?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—Yes.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Does the Government think that the teacher can cope with these 50 young urchins?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—That question can be asked with regard to 45 or even 40. The Government have been constrained to increase the number from 45 to 50 as a measure of retrenchment. It is not said that it is an ideal arrangement or even a permanent arrangement.

Mr. E. Ikkandâ Warriar *(Urakam).*—Does not the Government think that it will be too much to ask the teacher to attend to 50 boys in a class?

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Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—The same question may be asked about 45 or even 40.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (*Urakam*).—Are the Government aware that many had to discontinue the studies and many were not able to send boys to the school on account of inconvenience caused?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—The Government have no information as to the number discontinued. Where there was a fit case for opening a new division based upon the distance of the neighbouring school Government have not shown any reluctance to open a division. It does not mean that every such request has been sanctioned.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—May I know, Sir, whether the efficiency of teaching will not suffer because of the rule of 50?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—That is a very wide question. There are schools in advanced countries like England where there is no question of finance, where the strength is above 50 where the statutory limit is above 50. In the L. C. C. schools the strength is 60. It depends upon so many factors.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—Considerations being had to the conditions obtained in Cochin may I know whether the interests of efficiency have suffered as a result of insisting upon the rule of 50 pupils in one class?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—Sir, I have already answered that question. The Government was constrained to increase the number as a measure of temporary retrenchment.

Complaints against Gothuruthi School—particulars regarding.

187. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Nellayi*).—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether there were complaints against the Gothuruthi School from the Chennamangalam School recently;

(b) if so, what were the complaints; and

(c) what action was taken by the Director of Public Instruction in the matter?

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